



City of Annapolis

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Annapolis Environmental Commission

April 20, 2011

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the City of Annapolis was held on April 20, 2011 at the 145 Gorman Street. Chair Pogell called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.

Present: **Chair Pogell, Co-Vice Chair DeLuca, Co-Vice Chair Kamenoff, Weber, Butler, Rachfal, Rinaldi**

Absent: Haas

Staff: R. Savidge, T. Hook-Recorder

Guest: L. Craig, Historic Preservation Officer, A. Hopkinson, O. Cook, and G. Azama, all of Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation, R. Kissel

II. **February 16, 2011 and March 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

The voting on the February 16, 2011 and March 16, 2011 meeting minutes was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

III. **Regular Business Before the Commission**

Outreach

a. AEC Newsletter

This agenda item was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

b. Maryland Wind Energy ACT Resolution/Letter

This agenda item was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

c. Rain Barrel/Compost Bin Sale/AEC Installation Demos & Outreach

This agenda item was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

Action Items

a. Eco-Center

This agenda item was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

b. Grant Writing

This agenda item was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

c. Recycling Education Campaign

This agenda item was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

d. Stormwater Eastport Watershed Alliance

Ms. Pogell agreed to provide Mr. Weber feedback on the comments submitted regarding this agenda item.

e. Annapolis Neck Proposed Development Visit

Mr. Savidge distributed comments prepared by Mr. Weber for review and comment.

f. Crystal Spring Farm LLC Development Proposal

There was a brief discussion regarding the Crystal Spring Farm proposal that is scheduled for a work session with the Planning Commission April 21, 2011.

DNEP

a. Crystal Spring Farm LLC Development proposed on Katherine Property – March 19, 2011 Site Visit

The Commission's comments regarding the site visit were distributed for review and discussion.

Ms. Hopkinson, Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation (ANPF), has been working on the Forest Drive corridor for approximately 10 years or so but the Federation has been working for over 30 years. She noted that the first part of this decade included a significant amount of annexed property that was a concern for the ANPF and now there is development on this annexed property. The Katherine Property has been a big concern for the ANPF since its annexation. It was originally part of the County small area plan to be preserved as a greenway and there were several attempts by the County to purchase this property. She noted concerns regarding the proposal to destroy a significant amount of trees; other sensitive environmental features; and to create an increase in the traffic volume and the ingress/egress from the property.

Mr. Weber summarized his observations on the Katherine property site visit explaining that almost the entire site has a very high water table. The second observation is that the proposal calls to pave over almost all the existing forest. He noted that Mr. Haas provided bird data explaining that there are over 200 species of bird types in the area. The proposed parking spaces were excessive for the amount of retail space proposed. The retail space could be moved to a less sensitive area. He noted that the Annapolis Conservancy Board contends that the proposed 75-acre conservation easement can not be accepted by the City because it does not fit the definition of a conservation easement, so it may have to be an agricultural easement. This will require some other entity to hold the easement such as the State or another land trust. He further noted that the site plan violates the spirit of the State of Maryland Forest Act and Stormwater Management Act because the intention of these laws is to retain as much of the forest as possible or mitigate when necessary.

Mr. Savidge provided the status of this project noting that there is a work session scheduled with the Planning Commission and then there will be a submittal for site design plan review and approval. Once site design review is completed then the final approval will be requested. Once this occurs, it is sent to the Board of Appeals. He encouraged members to submit any comments to Mr. Smith to forward to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Cook explained that there have been bald eagle sightings in the area and he believes they are nesting nearby. He briefly described the other species observed are northern pine snakes and northern mapt turtles. Ms. Hopkinson stated that ANPF's goals are to constrain development to save forest and habitat.

b. Reserve at Quiet Waters

Ms. Hopkinson has had no opportunity to give input on this project except during the annexation process. She noted that ANPF concerns are for the protection of the water quality in this area and the preservation of the forest. There was a discussion regarding how the bog concern will be addressed. Mr. Savidge noted that the City is investigating the wetlands/bog concern along with MDE and the Corps of Engineers. This will be the case for the Katherine Property as well.

The Commission briefly went over some of the comments distributed regarding stormwater management impacts and wetland preservation.

c. Annapolis Neck Portion of Forest Drive Corridor

This agenda item was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

d. AEC Business Card

Ms. Kamenoff provided a copy of the business card for review and comment. Mr. Savidge noted that there is no funding available to print the AEC business cards however, the Department has made its printers available to print the business cards.

e. Deadline for Invoices for AEC Expenses

Ms. Pogell reminded members to submit any expense invoices by April 30, 2011.

f. Budget

Mr. Savidge reported that there is still no funding available.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. City Council Environmental Matters Committee

This agenda item was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

b. Lease for Annapolis Boat Shows - Recycling

Mr. Savidge explained that the legislation regarding the boat show will include recycling and hopefully it will get approved. This will eventually be required for all events in the City.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Stormwater Utility Fee Report

Ms. Pogell noted that the Stormwater Utility Tax meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2011 at 7:30pm. She noted that Council is proposing to increase the stormwater utility fee from \$22 to \$40. She explained that the Mayor has requested that the AEC come to support the fee increase. She provided a copy of a slide presentation from Mr. Jarrell, Public Works Director, and noted that he proposes a 50% credit to those who are willing to install BMPs such as rain barrels or rain gardens. She encouraged members to attend the meeting if possible to testify in support or forward written comments to the Council and the Mayor through Hilary Raftovich.

b. Participation in Arbor Day, GreenSpace, Earth Day events, etc.

Vice Chair DeLuca distributed a flyer for Earth Day, Water, InterFaith Festival scheduled for May 1, 2011 at the Annapolis Towne Centre. Chair Pogell asked for volunteers and noted that Ms. Plumer, Director of Recreation and Parks have invited the Commission to participate in the TRI IT Festival scheduled June 18, 11:00-3:00.

Mr. Kissel noted that the Eastport Civic Association will be monitoring stormwater pollution near the Maritime Museum and headwaters of Back Creek. He explained that the SPCA is very interested in knowing if they can receive credits for installing rain gardens to address the stormwater drainage from the City property. Mr. Savidge responded that currently credits are not available but with the new stormwater fee passage, they could be. Mr. Kissel further clarified that this fee would mitigate the costs for the impact of the drainage onto the SPCA property.

Ms. Butler stated that HACA had a five year planning meeting and she learned that Mr. Leggett supports recycling and stormwater management so suggested inviting him to the June or July meeting. Ms. Pogell suggested talking with Mr. Leggett also regarding the Katherine Property,

which the Crystal Spring LLC say they have discussed with him regarding the children from the Newtowne 20 community.

c. Historic Preservation Conference in May

Ms. Craig announced that the Annual Historic Preservation and Revitalization Conference is scheduled for May 19 and 20, 2011 to be held in Annapolis. She and Ms. Kennedy, Chair of Historic Preservation Commission are serving as local co-hosts along with Carol Benson of the Four Rivers Heritage Area. She noted that there is a big emphasis on co-sponsorship with the Four Rivers Heritage Area of which the City is a part of the coordinating council that governs this organization. This organization has significant grant funding available and has put a renewed emphasis on natural resources. The organization has put together sessions on rehabilitating with green resources, windows, and landscaping. She requested volunteers and noted that registration could be free based on the number of volunteer hours. She referred members to the registration materials that include the website information for those interested in attending. She also referred members to the Department's universal listserv for those who would be interested in being added.

d. Distribution of AEC Survey

This agenda item was deferred to the May 18, 2011 meeting.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2011 at 145 Gorman Street, Third Floor Conference Room.

With there being no further business, Ms. Kamenoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:14pm.

Ms. Rinaldi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote 5-0.

Tami Hook, Recorder